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with thousands of agents fomenting unrest in every possible way —by propaganda in shops, schools and churches, in newspapers and magazines, by revolutionary strikes, by demanding the nationalization of railways and mines, by undermining the loyalty of the army and the police, and by unrestrained and unreasonable criticism of the existing industrial order. Doubtless Mr. Brasol is right in affirming that such a conspiracy exists and should be carefully watched, but he seems to overstate the case by giving too little weight to other causes of unrest and by too sweeping condemnation of everything that savors of socialism in the slightest degree. Then, too, the author makes careless statements here and there, as when he links together the British I. L. P. with the American I. W. W. and the German Spartacans, gives the date of the Bolshevik coup d'état as October 28, 1917, instead of November 7 (Oct. 25, O. S.), and designates as a "well known economic law" the truism that the increase in the prices of products involves a decrease in the value of money. For all that, Mr. Brasol's book gives a just though not a neutral estimate of the character and aims of modern socialism. But neutrality is a questionable virtue in time of war.

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*Coöperative and Other Organized Methods of Marketing California Horticulture Products.* By JOHN WILLIAM LLOYD. (Urbana: University of Illinois. 1919. Pp. 142. \$1.25.)

No work shows as completely as this the historical development of farmers' coöperative marketing organizations in the United States and the problems of distributing food products through them with some regard for the interests of producers and consumers. The condition of growers in California before their organization into associations for marketing their own products is shown by the author to have been unfavorable to the continuance of production. Prices paid for farm products by brokers and jobbers were below the cost of production. In 1915 the price paid the peach-grower was only two and a half cents per pound, one cent below the average cost of production. Low prices were due to the fact that the packers speculated with the crop and influenced prices to their own advantage whether buying or selling. They would tell the growers that there was not much demand for their peaches and the jobber that the crops were short. Similar

conditions prevailed in the almond industry, so that growers began to grub out their orchards. The Almond Growers' Exchange, an affiliation of the local association, was then formed, whereby growers have made good profits from their orchards.

The organization and federation of several associations under the control of the producers of citrus fruit raised and stabilized prices to the growers, increased production, made it possible for oranges to be marketed for 3 to 4 per cent rather than the 7 to 10 per cent charged by the brokers, secured information as to market prices and needs, uncolored by the interests of buyers, cheapened and improved transportation service, educated the consumers to a greater use of oranges without increasing the cost of distribution, and raised the whole industry from a condition of depression to one of growth and of remunerative prices.

The methods of operation followed by the coöperative organization are considered by the author in detail to show the problems of grading, packing, inspection, routing according to the needs of different markets, market news service, determination of sale price, advertising to increase use, and improving methods of salesmanship of retail stores.

In this coöperative organization movement, the farmers, like the laboring classes, are striving for a collective voice in the determination of the award for their labor; but, unlike the laboring classes as a whole, they have found that control of the processes of production is inadequate without control of the processes of distribution. However, the author does not think it possible for growers who are scattered over the United States to accomplish equal results in reducing the cost of distribution generally. He does not attempt, except in a very limited way, to show how the wastes of the present system of competitive distribution may be avoided.

The assumptions underlying this presentation of the problems of marketing are at variance with those of the classical economic theory, but very much in accord with the conceptions held by promoters of farmers', labor, and business organizations generally, by housewives' leagues, government regulators of railroads and of industry, reformers of profiteers generally, as well as by revolutionists. To the classical theorist, prices are a resultant of a natural order of supply and demand which cannot be changed. The distributor is a colorless reflector of the economic forces which determine prices. If, however, it can be shown that by tak-

ing thought, the system of distribution can be changed so as to give consumers a more adequate supply of goods at a less cost, then possibly there may be no finality in the conclusion based on the old assumptions, according to which food prices and rents of agricultural land would tend to be high, profits low, and wealth would centralize in the hands of the agricultural landlord class. Possibly it does make a difference to the producers whether they themselves control the marketing organizations or middlemen control such organizations; and to the consumers whether consumers control the distributive processes or profiteers control them. Mr. Lloyd shows how the struggle for control of markets by middlemen affects the interests of the producer and discourages production. The principal kind of control assumed by traditional theory was political. This control, exercised by the landlord government in its own interests, the classical theorists, who were the exponents of the new industrial order, thought to be bad. Any government control today is considered impracticable by the business interests, though there is no consistency at this point.

Mr. Lloyd's main conclusion is that control of distribution by producers instead of by middlemen has increased food production, but he does not think that such control would follow the usual development, namely, that when well intrenched, the growers, like capital and labor, would limit the supply in order to increase their advantage.

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*The Nonpartisan League.* By HERBERT E. GASTON. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Howe. 1920. Pp. 325.)

Many articles both favorable and unfavorable have been written concerning the National Nonpartisan League, of which Arthur C. Townley is the creator and head, and which is another name for what is called the "new day" in North Dakota. This book by Mr. Gaston is, however, the first authoritative, and to a certain extent unbiased, statement of the genesis and growth of the movement. Three years' employment on the publication controlled by the league has given Mr. Gaston an intimate knowledge of the organization, and, although the reader is assured of a "conscientious effort to make a faithful report of facts of essential interest," favorable conclusions are the rule. This point should be kept in view in judging the matter presented.